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ABSTRACT

This report presents occupation and industry data (statewide and service area specific) for the purpose of assessing external forces in order to provide information to help guide policymaking at Front Range Community College. The report contains tables that display statewide occupational trends as published by the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment. Statewide annual growth and openings are expected to be the greatest in service occupations, especially those requiring short-term on-the-job training. A large number of vacancies is also expected for occupations relating to general office support positions. Computer related occupations are also predicted to have large vacancies. Childcare workers and elementary school teacher vacancies are also expected to be high. The majority of the top 25 industries in Adams County are trade or service related. Many of the top 25 industries in Boulder County are also related to trade and service. The Denver workforce is employed in a very diverse service industry. In addition to transportation, retail and lodging/food services, Denver's economy is also supported by biotechnology and other high technology industries. The service and mining industries are well-represented in Jefferson County's economy. Larimer County has a economy that emphasizes service and manufacturing. The top industry in Weld County is manufacturing. (VWC)

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# SERVICE AREA MARKET ANALYSIS: FOCUS ON INDUSTRY AND OCCUPATION

**Front Range Community College**
**Office of Institutional Research**

JC 000 440

# *Office of Institutional Research*

*"Collecting, analyzing, interpreting, and delivering institutional information."*

## SERVICE AREA MARKET ANALYSIS: FOCUS ON INDUSTRY AND OCCUPATION

***Service Area Defined***: Before reporting on the industry and occupation trends in the Front Range Community College service area, it may be useful to define our service area boundaries. According to the Colorado Commission on Higher Education, our service area is as follows: Larimer and Boulder Counties as well as major portions of Adams and Weld Counties. Our southern boundary (I-70) also includes northern portions of Jefferson and Denver Counties in our service area. Therefore, our service area is comprised of six counties: Adams, Boulder, Denver, Jefferson, Larimer and Weld.

***Focus on Industry and Occupation***: The service industry is the fastest growing industry in the Colorado economy and includes jobs requiring a wide range of education and training. Jobs requiring short-term training and little education are expected to be plentiful. Blue-collar service occupations are expected to generally decline in availability although very specialized positions may see growth. One reason for the general decline is the advancement in technology. Within the service industry, the technology sector will support the most occupational growth. While some of these positions will require a four-year degree, many will not.

"Within recent years, Colorado has gained a reputation at home, and abroad, as a high technology growth center and a leader in technologies of the future, including information technologies, photonics, advanced materials, electronics, and environmental and biotechnologies" (University of Colorado, Business Advancement Center, 1999). According to the Denver Business Journal (11/12/99), Colorado ranks third in the nation in high technology employment growth with jobs increasing by 43% between 1990-1997. High technology industries are strongly represented in the six county Front Range Community College service area. There are a variety of sectors represented including telecommunications, network integration, software development, computer hardware manufacturing, aviation, and aerospace technology.

In addition to high technology growth, there is also expected to be growth in Colorado's biotechnology industry including research and development of pharmaceuticals as well as medical devices and techniques. Attracting venture capital is a major issue for biotechnology firms, however, experts expect funding to increase as young companies begin showing returns. Nationally, "It's raining money on the biotechnology sector" (Denver Rocky Mountain News, 2/6/00). Colorado's biotechnology industry ranks 17$^{th}$ in the nation (Denver Business Journal, January 2000) and will most probably advance as venture capital increases. Many of Colorado's biotechnology organizations (private and academic) call Boulder County home. In addition, the Fitzsimons redevelopment project currently underway will create a bioscience park in Adams County. Although many of the employees of the new development will transfer from their current locations, the park is also expected to increase the need for additional qualified employees.

Helping to perpetuate the growth of the high technology and biotechnology industries is the ongoing research and training in photonics. "Photonics, the science of light, has a history of success in solving clinical and research problems in diverse applications through such products and techniques as spectroscopy, lasers, microscopy, imaging and fiber optics" (Biophotonics International, Volume 6 (7), 1999). Recognizing the importance of photonics, the Colorado Advanced Photonics Technology Center (CAPT) was created. CAPT is located in Adams County at the Higher Education Advanced Technology (HEAT) Center. In 1999, in association with CAPT, Pueblo Community College began offering a two-year photonics/vacuum technology degree. According to Pueblo Community College, entry level occupations for graduates include: electronics/instrumentation technician, laser technician, bio-medical laser technician, clean room operators, semiconductor manufacturing technician, holographic technician, optic/telecommunication technician, and fiber-optic technician. Many high technology and biotechnology organizations that could benefit from photonics training and education reside within the boundaries of the Front Range Community College service area. The photonics.com web site lists 76 high technology and biotechnology organizations within our service area that are involved with photonics research, development, training, or services. "Colorado is becoming a hub of photonic manufacturing" (University of Colorado at Boulder, Business Research Division, 1997). Examples include:

- Denver's Lockheed Martin uses the technology in its expendable launch system.
- Boulder's Lexmark International uses it in inkjet and laser printers.
- Denver's Rose Biomedical Research makes optoelectronic devices for the medical profession.
- Boulder's Biostar makes kits used to detect infectious diseases.
- Windsor's Eastman Kodak uses photonics in manufacturing film, paper and lithographic plates.

Industry leaders from both high technology and biotechnology were appointed to the Governor's Commission on Science and Technology in September of 1999. The strong hold of these industries in our service area is represented in the commission's membership. Many of the members are industry leaders from our six county service area. The mission statement of the group as stated by the Office of Innovation and Technology (1999) is as follows:

> "To issue to the Governor a set of recommendations focused on enhancing Colorado's business climate and creating the technological infrastructure necessary to foster statewide growth of the high technology industry with the goal of securing Colorado's future as a global technology leader in the 21st century."

In addition to occupations in high technology and biotechnology, there are many other occupations that have helped to boost Colorado's economy. The following tables display statewide occupational trends as published by the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (Colorado Job Outlook Summary 1995-2005).

| Colorado's top 25 occupations ranked by annual growth from 1995-2005 | |
|---|---|
| Occupation | Annual Growth |
| Retail salespersons | 1893 |
| Waiters, waitresses | 1590 |
| General managers and top executives | 1507 |
| Janitors | 1486 |
| Managers/administrators | 1266 |
| Guards | 1118 |
| Marketing and sales supervisors | 1116 |
| Cashiers | 1039 |
| Systems analysts | 989 |
| Clerical supervisors | 885 |
| Secretaries (except legal and medical) | 844 |
| Receptionists | 828 |
| Child care workers | 766 |
| Computer engineers | 757 |
| Professionals, paraprofessionals, technicians | 746 |
| Laborers | 726 |
| General office clerks | 721 |
| Light truck drivers | 670 |
| Secondary school teachers | 628 |
| Food service and lodging managers | 616 |
| Cooks | 599 |
| Maintenance repairers | 529 |
| Computer programmers | 485 |
| Elementary school teachers | 454 |
| Accountants and auditors | 430 |

| Colorado's top 25 occupations ranked by annual openings | |
|---|---|
| Occupation | Annual Openings |
| Retail salespersons | 4328 |
| Waiters, waitresses | 3491 |
| Cashiers | 2680 |
| General managers and top executives | 2605 |
| Janitors | 2085 |
| Managers and administrators | 2084 |
| Marketing and sales supervisors | 1886 |
| General office clerks | 1878 |
| Clerical supervisors | 1566 |
| Secretaries (except legal and medical) | 1561 |
| Laborers | 1367 |
| Guards | 1361 |
| Receptionists | 1229 |
| Secondary school teachers | 1146 |
| Cooks | 1096 |
| Systems analysts | 1076 |
| Light truck drivers | 1031 |
| Professionals, paraprofessional, technicians | 1030 |
| Child care workers | 962 |
| Food service and lodging managers | 921 |
| Maintenance repairers | 882 |
| Elementary school teachers | 880 |
| Maids | 879 |
| Sales representatives | 860 |
| Computer programmers | 828 |

Statewide annual growth and annual openings are expected to be the greatest in service occupations, especially those requiring short-term on-the-job training. A large number of vacancies are also expected for occupations relating to general office support positions. In addition, paraprofessional and technical vacancies are expected to be plentiful. Requiring more education and training, computer related occupations such as computer programmers and systems analysts are predicted to have large vacancies. Outside of the office, childcare workers and elementary school teacher vacancies are also expected to have be high. (Note: Annual growth accounts for new positions only, annual openings includes new positions and positions left vacant through attrition or retirement)

| Colorado's top 25 occupations ranked by annual percent growth from 1995-2005 | |
|---|---|
| Occupation | Percent Annual Growth |
| Computer scientists | 13.1% |
| Computer engineers | 11.1% |
| Systems analysts | 11.0% |
| Amusement and recreation attendants | 9.4% |
| Personal and home care aides | 9.3% |
| Guards | 8.7% |
| Human service workers | 8.3% |
| Residential counselors | 7.5% |
| Demonstrators, promoters, models | 7.5% |
| Lawn maintenance | 7.5% |
| Adjustment clerks | 6.5% |
| Preschool and kindergarten teachers | 6.4% |
| Plant and systems operators | 6.4% |
| Physical therapists | 6.2% |
| Animal caretakers | 6.1% |
| Correction officers | 5.9% |
| Professionals, paraprofessionals, technicians | 5.7% |
| Securities and financial sales | 5.7% |
| Hand workers | 5.7% |
| Bill and account collectors | 5.7% |
| Bus drivers (except school bus) | 5.4% |
| Engineering, math, natural sciences manager | 4.8% |
| Counter and rental clerks | 4.8% |
| Teacher aides | 4.7% |
| Janitors | 4.7% |

Looking at the annual percent growth shows occupations that are growing the fastest. High technology occupations such as computer scientists, computer engineers, and systems analysts, are the three fastest growing occupations. Social service occupations are also expected to grow at a high rate. This includes occupations such as human service workers, and residential counselors. Childcare and educational occupations are also predicted to have a high rate of growth. Statewide, paraprofessional and technical occupations may also experience high growth rates.

To be more specific, the following pages display occupation and industry trends by county within the Front Range Community College service area using 1997 census data.



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1997 County Business Patterns for Adams, CO
Top 25 industries by reported average annual salary

| Industry | Number of Employees | Average Annual Salary |
|---|---|---|
| Holding offices | 96 | $ 83,250 |
| Mailing, reproduction, stenographic | 160 | $ 65,313 |
| Offices of osteopathic physicians | 114 | $ 62,842 |
| Refrigeration equipment and supplies | 98 | $ 55,092 |
| Petroleum products, n.e.c. | 87 | $ 53,322 |
| Medical and hospital equipment | 130 | $ 53,031 |
| Offices and clinics of medical doctors | 979 | $ 51,299 |
| Plastics foam products | 149 | $ 49,114 |
| Computer programming services | 460 | $ 47,474 |
| Computers, peripherals and software | 286 | $ 47,437 |
| Paints, varnishes, and supplies | 64 | $ 46,531 |
| Professional and commercial equipment | 907 | $ 46,258 |
| Management services | 438 | $ 46,244 |
| Electronic parts and equipment | 471 | $ 46,068 |
| Medical equipment rental | 24 | $ 46,000 |
| Administrative and auxiliary (Manufacturing) | 1,099 | $ 45,843 |
| Fire, marine, and casualty insurance | 71 | $ 45,380 |
| Prepackaged software | 80 | $ 44,188 |
| Beer, wine, and distilled beverages | 760 | $ 43,924 |
| Computer and data processing services | 793 | $ 43,739 |
| Research and testing services | 243 | $ 43,354 |
| Grain mill products | 209 | $ 43,349 |
| Installing building equipment, n.e.c. | 127 | $ 42,142 |
| Operative builders | 229 | $ 42,009 |
| Computer maintenance and repair | 20 | $ 41,450 |

1997 County Business Patterns for Adams, CO
Top 25 industries by number of employees

| Industry | Number of Employees | Average Annual Salary |
|---|---|---|
| Trucking and courier services, except air | 13,398 | $ 29,171 |
| Eating places | 7,171 | $ 8,858 |
| Grocery stores | 3,452 | $ 20,280 |
| Personnel supply services | 3,292 | $ 17,284 |
| Help supply services | 3,257 | $ 17,269 |
| Electrical work | 2,416 | $ 39,844 |
| Groceries and related products | 2,288 | $ 32,791 |
| Machinery, equipment, and supplies | 2,165 | $ 37,909 |
| Motor vehicles, parts, and supplies | 2,064 | $ 26,736 |
| Management and public relations | 1,930 | $ 22,853 |
| Department stores | 1,710 | $ 10,467 |
| Administrative and auxiliary (Retail) | 1,688 | $ 31,730 |
| Nursing and personal care facilities | 1,566 | $ 20,291 |
| Automotive repair shops | 1,498 | $ 26,244 |
| Misc. special trade contractors | 1,423 | $ 33,026 |
| Concrete work | 1,403 | $ 29,570 |
| Hospitals | 1,369 | $ 32,422 |
| Miscellaneous business services | 1,341 | $ 16,818 |
| Heavy construction, except highway | 1,288 | $ 38,154 |
| Miscellaneous plastics products, n.e.c. | 1,214 | $ 34,260 |
| Furniture and homefurnishings stores | 1,182 | $ 26,245 |
| New and used car dealers | 1,171 | $ 37,010 |
| Plumbing, heating, air-conditioning | 1,170 | $ 28,807 |
| Services to buildings | 1,167 | $ 10,307 |
| Automobiles and other motor vehicles | 1,156 | $ 24,932 |

The majority of the top 25 industries in Adams County were trade or service related. This may be due in large part to the accessibility of highway, rail and air transportation. The statewide trend for growth in high technology is increasingly visible in Adams County. "The Higher Education and Advanced Technology (HEAT) Center at Lowry is designated by the state as a central point for high technology transfer" (Commerce City, Office of Economic Development). This may attract high technology employers to the area. Furthermore, the Westminster City Council recently approved the purchase of 135 acres near Huron and 146$^{th}$ Avenue to eventually build a new technology and industrial park intended to rival the Denver Technology Center (Westminster Window, 1/27/00). The new business park will be located in the E470 corridor once construction of the highway is completed, which should allow for easy accessibility for the projected workforce and may also foster the continued growth of residential and commercial construction in the area. In addition to attracting high technology companies, Adams County is trying to attract biotechnology companies with a new bioscience park to be constructed in the Fitzsimons redevelopment.



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1997 County Business Patterns for Boulder, CO
Top 25 industries by reported average annual salary

| Industry | Number of Employees | Average Annual Salary |
|---|---|---|
| Commodity contracts brokers, dealers | 8 | $ 228,250 |
| Miscellaneous investing | 62 | $ 104,952 |
| Medical and hospital equipment | 125 | $ 70,824 |
| Functions closely related to banking | 14 | $ 69,143 |
| Computer integrated systems design | 605 | $ 67,931 |
| Transportation equipment and supplies | 19 | $ 64,211 |
| Computer peripheral equipment, n.e.c. | 200 | $ 62,814 |
| Instruments to measure electricity | 63 | $ 62,651 |
| Security brokers and dealers | 348 | $ 61,819 |
| Farm-product raw materials | 21 | $ 61,810 |
| Security and commodity services | 177 | $ 61,367 |
| Noncommercial research organizations | 120 | $ 60,967 |
| Administrative and auxiliary (Manufacturing) | 1,109 | $ 60,846 |
| Computer storage devices | 5,446 | $ 60,439 |
| Electronic parts and equipment | 264 | $ 59,152 |
| Computer and office equipment | 6,340 | $ 59,001 |
| Prepackaged software | 1,448 | $ 58,833 |
| Offices and clinics of medical doctors | 1,408 | $ 57,796 |
| Computer and data processing services | 5,365 | $ 57,029 |
| Management consulting services | 436 | $ 56,961 |
| Business consulting, n.e.c. | 356 | $ 56,525 |
| Computer related services, n.e.c. | 949 | $ 54,543 |
| Computer programming services | 1,117 | $ 54,455 |
| Data processing and preparation | 681 | $ 54,157 |
| Computers, peripherals and software | 2,315 | $ 54,092 |

1997 County Business Patterns for Boulder, CO
Top 25 industries by number of employees

| Industry | Number of Employees | Average Annual Salary |
|---|---|---|
| Eating places | 11,769 | $ 9,736 |
| Computer and office equipment | 6,340 | $ 59,001 |
| Computer storage devices | 5,446 | $ 60,439 |
| Computer and data processing services | 5,365 | $ 57,029 |
| Personnel supply services | 3,974 | $ 14,078 |
| Help supply services | 3,851 | $ 13,356 |
| Research and testing services | 3,541 | $ 49,153 |
| Grocery stores | 3,221 | $ 20,131 |
| Administrative and auxiliary (Service) | 3,064 | $ 23,164 |
| Hospitals | 2,908 | $ 28,019 |
| Commercial physical research | 2,750 | $ 53,910 |
| Professional and commercial equipment | 2,724 | $ 53,767 |
| Department stores | 2,439 | $ 11,109 |
| Computers, peripherals and software | 2,315 | $ 54,092 |
| Medical instruments and supplies | 2,130 | $ 41,616 |
| Measuring and controlling devices | 2,026 | $ 41,828 |
| Management and public relations | 1,951 | $ 48,479 |
| Electronic components and accessories | 1,755 | $ 32,274 |
| Plastics products, n.e.c. | 1,742 | $ 29,239 |
| Miscellaneous shopping goods stores | 1,668 | $ 13,387 |
| Misc. amusement, recreation services | 1,581 | $ 14,140 |
| Engineering and architectural services | 1,482 | $ 47,117 |
| General building contractors | 1,459 | $ 32,489 |
| Prepackaged software | 1,448 | $ 58,833 |
| Offices and clinics of medical doctors | 1,408 | $ 57,796 |

Many of the top 25 industries in Boulder County are related to trade and service. Within the service industry, the high technology and biotechnology sectors are well represented including, computer and data processing, network integration, software development, computer hardware manufacturing, engineering, research and testing, and hospitals. The trade sectors highlighted also had a strong representation of parts and equipment related to computers, electronics, and medical/hospital equipment. All of this reiterates that "Boulder, the eighth largest city in the state, has a very dynamic economy which is supported by computer, aerospace, scientific and research firms" (Boulder Chamber of Commerce, 1999). Much of the economic development is along the turnpike, specifically the growth of the Interlocken Business Park. On the other side of Boulder County, the diagonal highway also supports a strong high technology and biotechnology economy.



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1997 County Business Patterns for Denver, CO
Top 25 industries by reported average annual salary

| Industry | Number of Employees | Average Annual Salary |
|---|---|---|
| Commercial sports | 633 | $ 214,120 |
| Radio and TV communications equipment | 3 | $ 158,333 |
| Metal mining services | 131 | $ 110,481 |
| Management services | 1,938 | $ 83,687 |
| Prepackaged software | 1,423 | $ 80,996 |
| Security brokers and dealers | 3,086 | $ 75,021 |
| Administrative and auxiliary (Mining) | 2,333 | $ 72,908 |
| Offices and clinics of medical doctors | 5,031 | $ 66,658 |
| Oil and gas exploration services | 141 | $ 66,411 |
| Investors, n.e.c. | 159 | $ 64,415 |
| Testing laboratories | 159 | $ 60,239 |
| Computers, peripherals and software | 2,496 | $ 57,738 |
| Holding offices | 1,704 | $ 57,717 |
| Engineering services | 3,162 | $ 57,685 |
| Oil and gas field services, n.e.c. | 298 | $ 57,094 |
| Gas production and distribution | 354 | $ 56,873 |
| Computer programming services | 1,407 | $ 56,731 |
| Management and public relations | 6,178 | $ 56,146 |
| Administrative and auxiliary (Manufacturing) | 2,059 | $ 56,075 |
| Telephone communications, exc. Radio | 10,890 | $ 56,047 |
| Telephone communication | 11,359 | $ 55,184 |
| Engineering and architectural services | 4,841 | $ 53,623 |
| Administrative and auxiliary (Finance, insurance, real estate) | 134 | $ 53,269 |
| Petroleum bulk stations and terminals | 328 | $ 52,491 |
| Computer and data processing services | 7,118 | $ 51,588 |

1997 County Business Patterns for Denver, CO
Top 25 industries by number of employees

| Industry | Number of Employees | Average Annual Salary |
|---|---|---|
| Eating places | 23,453 | $ 11,431 |
| Hospitals | 21,173 | $ 35,664 |
| Personnel supply services | 17,051 | $ 20,872 |
| Help supply services | 16,209 | $ 20,686 |
| Air transportation, scheduled | 11,449 | $ 42,414 |
| Telephone communication | 11,359 | $ 55,184 |
| Telephone communications, exc. Radio | 10,890 | $ 56,047 |
| Miscellaneous business services | 8,531 | $ 18,069 |
| Hotels and motels | 7,554 | $ 16,007 |
| Computer and data processing services | 7,118 | $ 51,588 |
| Real estate agents and managers | 6,697 | $ 27,311 |
| Management and public relations | 6,178 | $ 56,146 |
| Services to buildings | 5,704 | $ 10,944 |
| Building maintenance services, n.e.c. | 5,628 | $ 10,687 |
| Commercial banks | 5,163 | $ 35,038 |
| Offices and clinics of medical doctors | 5,031 | $ 66,658 |
| Colleges and universities | 4,963 | $ 22,898 |
| Engineering and architectural services | 4,841 | $ 53,623 |
| Grocery stores | 4,828 | $ 20,254 |
| Professional and commercial equipment | 4,531 | $ 47,489 |
| Groceries and related products | 4,461 | $ 32,750 |
| Nursing and personal care facilities | 4,146 | $ 17,343 |
| Religious organizations | 3,715 | $ 13,061 |
| Trucking and courier services, except air | 3,650 | $ 27,324 |
| Detective and armored car services | 3,622 | $ 14,042 |

The Denver workforce is employed in a very diverse service industry. In addition to transportation, retail and lodging/food services, Denver's economy is also supported by biotechnology and high technology industries. Denver hosts numerous medical centers, biomedical companies and research institutions (private and academic). "Denver is also the birthplace of cable television and remains a world leader in telecommunications, including satellite and phone communications and information technology development" (City of Denver, Economic Development).



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1997 County Business Patterns for Jefferson, CO
Top 25 industries by reported average annual salary

| Industry | Number of Employees | Average Annual Salary |
|---|---|---|
| Administrative and auxiliary (Mining) | 46 | $ 94,674 |
| Electrical appliances, TV and radios | 28 | $ 80,643 |
| Gold and silver ores | 69 | $ 80,072 |
| Gold ores | 69 | $ 80,072 |
| Administrative and auxiliary (Manufacturing) | 1,362 | $ 71,739 |
| Administrative and auxiliary (Retail) | 470 | $ 69,623 |
| Holding offices | 135 | $ 64,052 |
| Patent owners and lessors | 17 | $ 59,353 |
| Computer programming services | 806 | $ 57,424 |
| Professional equipment, n.e.c. | 67 | $ 57,164 |
| Sanitary services | 3,038 | $ 55,945 |
| Medical laboratories | 39 | $ 55,385 |
| Chemicals and allied products, n.e.c. | 163 | $ 54,724 |
| Computer related services, n.e.c. | 388 | $ 53,585 |
| Administrative and auxiliary (Wholesale trade) | 188 | $ 53,532 |
| Petroleum products, n.e.c. | 17 | $ 52,588 |
| Chemicals and allied products | 198 | $ 52,202 |
| General industrial machinery | 483 | $ 52,161 |
| Special industry machinery | 65 | $ 51,769 |
| Commercial physical research | 1,251 | $ 51,282 |
| Offices and clinics of medical doctors | 2,475 | $ 50,083 |
| Commercial equipment, n.e.c. | 79 | $ 49,823 |
| Oil and gas field services | 129 | $ 49,783 |
| Electrical goods | 825 | $ 49,732 |
| Prepackaged software | 324 | $ 49,568 |

1997 County Business Patterns for Jefferson, CO
Top 25 industries by number of employees

| Industry | Number of Employees | Average Annual Salary |
|---|---|---|
| Eating places | 17,169 | $ 9,432 |
| Department stores | 5,208 | $ 12,714 |
| Grocery stores | 5,097 | $ 21,600 |
| Engineering and architectural services | 3,868 | $ 48,086 |
| Engineering services | 3,635 | $ 48,954 |
| Computer and data processing services | 3,184 | $ 48,666 |
| Sanitary services | 3,038 | $ 55,945 |
| Religious organizations | 3,000 | $ 15,219 |
| Nursing and personal care facilities | 2,948 | $ 18,027 |
| Services to buildings | 2,748 | $ 9,751 |
| Building maintenance services, n.e.c. | 2,705 | $ 9,530 |
| Management and public relations | 2,604 | $ 35,190 |
| Miscellaneous business services | 2,522 | $ 21,388 |
| Beverages | 2500-4999 | UA |
| Malt beverages | 2500-4999 | UA |
| Offices and clinics of medical doctors | 2,475 | $ 50,083 |
| Miscellaneous shopping goods stores | 2,450 | $ 12,866 |
| Personnel supply services | 2,359 | $ 27,521 |
| New and used car dealers | 2,110 | $ 38,702 |
| Misc. amusement, recreation services | 2,102 | $ 16,812 |
| Help supply services | 2,082 | $ 27,150 |
| Business services, n.e.c. | 2,021 | $ 21,897 |
| Research and testing services | 1,990 | $ 44,871 |
| Medical instruments and supplies | 1,944 | $ 36,764 |
| Educational services | 1,931 | $ 18,385 |

The service and mining industries are well represented in Jefferson County's economy. "Colorado's extensible history in the mineral and mineral fuels industry, along with innovations developed at the Colorado School of Mines have solidified the state's role as an international leader in exploration and development" (City of Denver, Economic Development). The mining and service industries both have high technology sectors that are located in Jefferson County. Recent news that Lockheed Martin will soon be headquartered here further legitimizes the area as a "space hub" (Denver Rocky Mountain News, 1/26/00). Although the area is somewhat land locked by the foothills, new construction is ongoing. The Jefferson County city council has the goal to set aside available land to support necessary job growth in order to achieve one job per employable citizen (Denver Business Journal, 1/27/00). This could mean a lot of new employment vacancies in the future. Openings are likely to be in high quality office/warehouse or high technology manufacturing in order to meet the demands of the area's high technology employers (Denver Business Journal, 1/27/00).





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1997 County Business Patterns for Larimer, CO
Top 25 industries by reported average annual salary

| Industry | Number of Employees | Average Annual Salary |
|---|---|---|
| Administrative and auxiliary (Manufacturing) | 77 | $ 84,545 |
| Security brokers and dealers | 104 | $ 55,250 |
| Computer and office equipment | 783 | $ 53,766 |
| Computer related services, n e c | 120 | $ 53,467 |
| Mobile home dealers | 28 | $ 48,714 |
| Offices and clinics of medical doctors | 1,521 | $ 48,402 |
| Electronic components and accessories | 4,752 | $ 47,360 |
| Management services | 186 | $ 46,199 |
| Engineering services | 1,066 | $ 45,615 |
| Engineering and architectural services | 1,203 | $ 44,392 |
| Prepackaged software | 117 | $ 44,188 |
| Computer programming services | 283 | $ 42,972 |
| Computer and data processing services | 766 | $ 41,076 |
| Computers, peripherals and software | 168 | $ 40,619 |
| General industrial machinery | 432 | $ 40,229 |
| Surgical and medical instruments | 56 | $ 40,196 |
| Operative builders | 297 | $ 38,556 |
| Testing laboratories | 77 | $ 37,481 |
| Periodicals | 327 | $ 37,450 |
| Heavy construction, except highway | 346 | $ 37,393 |
| Professional and commercial equipment | 434 | $ 37,021 |
| Management consulting services | 128 | $ 36,586 |
| Medical and hospital equipment | 24 | $ 36,458 |
| Architectural services | 103 | $ 36,359 |
| Masonry, stonework, and plastering | 808 | $ 36,319 |

1997 County Business Patterns for Larimer, CO
Top 25 industries by number of employees

| Industry | Number of Employees | Average Annual Salary |
|---|---|---|
| Eating places | 8,827 | $ 8,490 |
| Electronic components and accessories | 4,752 | $ 47,360 |
| Personnel supply services | 3,910 | $ 16,388 |
| Help supply services | 3,823 | $ 16,652 |
| Hospitals | 2,657 | $ 28,601 |
| Electronic components, n.e.c. | 2500-4999 | UA |
| Measuring and controlling devices | 2500-4999 | UA |
| Grocery stores | 2,306 | $ 18,499 |
| Nursing and personal care facilities | 1,792 | $ 13,828 |
| Department stores | 1,615 | $ 11,727 |
| Offices and clinics of medical doctors | 1,521 | $ 48,402 |
| Plumbing, heating, air-conditioning | 1,451 | $ 31,923 |
| Miscellaneous shopping goods stores | 1,391 | $ 12,216 |
| Miscellaneous plastics products, n.e.c. | 1,296 | $ 31,605 |
| Plastics products, n.e.c. | 1,280 | $ 31,677 |
| Engineering and architectural services | 1,203 | $ 44,392 |
| Religious organizations | 1,192 | $ 10,258 |
| General building contractors | 1,147 | $ 30,863 |
| Hotels and motels | 1,125 | $ 13,925 |
| Engineering services | 1,066 | $ 45,615 |
| Instruments to measure electricity | 1000-2499 | UA |
| New and used car dealers | 986 | $ 34,922 |
| Trucking and courier services, exce | 910 | $ 29,799 |
| Administrative and auxiliary (Retail) | 906 | $ 22,362 |
| Miscellaneous business services | 899 | $ 15,071 |

Larimer County has an economy that emphasizes service (health and engineering) and manufacturing (computers, electronics, and biomedical supplies). Hewlett Packard, already present in Ft. Collins, plans to consolidate its northern Colorado assets by closing their Greeley plant and transferring these 640 workers to Ft. Collins (Denver Rocky Mountain News, 1/18/00). This will require expansion of the existing business park in order to accommodate the larger workforce. It is also speculated that ConAgra will eventually move into Larimer County and reside in a Loveland office park. Supplementing the already prominent agricultural industry in Larimer County, the agricultural biotechnology industry is growing through Colorado State University and other private firms. The construction industry is also expanding. The Fort Collins-Loveland metro area has recently been named as the 15th fastest growing metro area in the country as well as the fastest growing metro area in the state (The Coloradoan, 12/18/99). This increases the need for residential and commercial construction to support the growing population.

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1997 County Business Patterns for Weld, CO
Top 25 industries by reported average annual salary

| Industry | Number of Employees | Average Annual Salary |
|---|---|---|
| Offices and clinics of medical doctors | 449 | $ 68,604 |
| Used car dealers | 34 | $ 58,647 |
| Retail nurseries and garden stores | 14 | $ 52,929 |
| Engineering services | 135 | $ 52,111 |
| Security brokers and dealers | 60 | $ 49,583 |
| General building contractors | 1,858 | $ 45,458 |
| Management consulting services | 6 | $ 44,833 |
| Engineering and architectural services | 199 | $ 44,668 |
| Recreational vehicle dealers | 85 | $ 42,565 |
| Commercial physical research | 22 | $ 41,682 |
| Medical and hospital equipment | 8 | $ 41,250 |
| Industrial machinery and equipment | 89 | $ 40,674 |
| Gas production and distribution | 195 | $ 40,374 |
| Administrative and auxiliary (Wholesale trade) | 117 | $ 39,949 |
| Business services, n.e.c. | 253 | $ 39,794 |
| Special industry machinery | 187 | $ 39,241 |
| Sheet metalwork | 57 | $ 38,842 |
| Metals and minerals, except petroleum | 78 | $ 38,590 |
| Computers, peripherals and software | 52 | $ 37,885 |
| Telephone communications, exc. radio | 128 | $ 37,406 |
| Professional and commercial equipment | 80 | $ 37,325 |
| Tires and tubes | 44 | $ 36,841 |
| Heavy construction equipment rental | 5 | $ 36,600 |
| Lumber, plywood, and millwork | 53 | $ 36,321 |
| Telephone communication | 147 | $ 36,306 |

1997 County Business Patterns for Weld, CO
Top 25 industries by number of employees

| Industry | Number of Employees | Average Annual Salary |
|---|---|---|
| Eating places | 3,564 | $ 7,584 |
| Meat products | 2500-4999 | UA |
| Meat packing plants | 2500-4999 | UA |
| General building contractors | 1,858 | $ 45,458 |
| Personnel supply services | 1,732 | $ 14,296 |
| Computer and data processing services | 1,462 | $ 15,227 |
| Trucking and courier services, except air | 1,181 | $ 24,981 |
| Grocery stores | 1,173 | $ 17,561 |
| Photographic equipment and supplies | 1000-2499 | UA |
| Department stores | 1000-2499 | UA |
| Fire, marine, and casualty insurance | 1000-2499 | UA |
| Help supply services | 1000-2499 | UA |
| Hospitals | 1000-2499 | UA |
| Nursing and personal care facilities | 931 | $ 17,369 |
| Groceries and related products | 897 | $ 31,172 |
| Commercial banks | 791 | $ 24,137 |
| Heavy construction, except highway | 775 | $ 35,746 |
| Groceries and related products, n.e.c. | 750 | $ 31,437 |
| Computer related services, n.e.c. | 601 | $ 15,882 |
| Nonstore retailers | 583 | $ 23,419 |
| New and used car dealers | 580 | $ 34,843 |
| Religious organizations | 530 | $ 9,889 |
| Computer and office equipment | 500-999 | UA |
| Computer storage devices | 500-999 | UA |
| Administrative and auxiliary (Manufacturing) | 500-999 | UA |

The top industry in Weld County is manufacturing (meat, photographic equipment/supplies, and computers). Industries that support manufacturing, especially meat, are also prominent (transportation, and grocery). When this census data was reported, major employers included Hewlett Packard, ConAgra and Kodak and State Farm Insurance. Hewlett Packard recently announced plans to move to Larimer County and ConAgra may soon follow. Weld County has been able to hang on to the State Farm Insurance regional headquarters. It will be moving from Evans to a business complex in the highway 34 corridor. Many believe that these changes reveal that Greeley lacks a unified strategy for economic development (Denver Post, 1/30/00). However, Greeley Major, Jerry Wones, has stated that the believes major industries that require a substantial amount of land will locate to Weld County because of the lack of space available in neighboring counties. He also believes that the county is very attractive to residential growth because of lower prices overall and a small-town atmosphere (Denver Rocky Mountain News, 1/18/00).



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General Conclusions: The current report presents occupation and industry data (statewide and service area specific) for the purpose of assessing external forces in order to provide information to help guide policy making. Clearly, each service area county presents unique opportunities for the college to create community partnerships and provide educational programs that meet the needs of each particular area. However, there are statewide trends rooted in high technology and biotechnology that will probably effect each of our service areas. As it has done in the past, Front Range Community College should consider these external trends in making planning decisions.